



THE
OPINIONS
OF THE
Barons of the Exchequer.
AND
DIRECTIONS
TO ALL
Justices of the Peace,
AND
CONSTABLES, &c.

For the Legally Convicting of all Persons,
that are raken in Conventicles, and un-
lawful Meetings.

Given at the Court of Exchequer, upon Justice Balch's Case.

Published by Special Authority.

THE *Justices of Peace of Middlesex* having a good while
since received His Majesties Orders in Council, to
put the Laws in Execution, and to Suppress Con-
venticles; some of the said *Justices* accordingly issued out
their Warrant to Mr. *Hodges*, a Constable, requiring him
to Suppress the Conventicle kept by One Dr. *Annesley*; and to
seize

seize such Persons, as should be found met there, upon pre-
 tence of a Religious Worship, contrary to Law : The said
 Constable repairing thither, found above 200. Persons
 so Assembled ; One of whom being seized, and carried be-
 fore Mr. Justice *Balch*, was (upon his refusing to Declare
 his Name) Committed to Prison : But sometime after
 owning himself to be called *White*, and being thereupon
 Discharged, brought his Action of Two Thousand Pound,
 for false Imprisonment against Mr. *Balch*, and Mr. *Hodges*.
 The Case being debated by Council Learned on both sides,
 before the Barons of His Majesties Court of *Exchequer* (the
 latter End of Last *Terme*) Verdict was given against the
 said *White*, and he condemn'd in treble Costs, as the Law
 directs : the Court further unanimously Declared the Law
 to be,

1. That if those in a *Conventicle* refuse to open the Door
 upon a Justice of Peace his Warrant, Entrance being de-
 manded, the Door may be broken open.

2. That the Persons apprehended there, are Convict-
 ed upon their being brought before a *Justice of Peace*, with-
 out Oath ; incurring the same *Penalty*, as if they were Con-
 victed by Oath ; as the Law directs in such Cases.

3. That those Persons that are in *Conventicles*, though
 not brought before a *Justice of the Peace*, may notwithstanding
 be Convicted by the Oath of Two Witnesses, of their
 being *There* ; incurring also the same *Penalty*, as if they
 were ; as the Law directs, &c.

4. That if any Person so seized, denies his Name, he
 may be Committed to Prison.

L O N D O N,

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